

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-20 presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, and 13-15 are amended herein. Claim 21 is newly presented. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 13 and 14 stand objected to as indefinite for not defining the acronym ATM within each of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 13 and 14 as requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-12, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Slavenburg et al (US 5,450,556).

A claim is anticipated only if **each and every element of the claim is found in a single reference**. M.P.E.P. § 2131 (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987)). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.” M.P.E.P. § 2131 (citing *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

Independent claim 1 now recites, in pertinent part, “a control engine, **linked in bi-directional communication** with the data memory...” Applicants respectfully submit that Slavenburg fails to disclose this element of claim 1.

In fact, FIG. 1 of Slavenburg illustrates that Branch Control Unit 15 (cited by the Examiner as corresponding to claimed control engine) is only coupled to receive data from Register File 10 (cited by the Examiner as corresponding to claimed data memory), as indicated by the unidirectional arrows linking Register File 10 to Branch Control Unit 15. It is telling to note that processor functional units 11-14 are illustrated with bidirectional arrows pointing to/from Register File 10; however in contrast, only unidirectional arrows were clearly illustrated pointing to Branch Control Unit 15 from Register File 10.

To be sure, FIG. 5 illustrates Branch Control Unit 15 with greater detail. Branch Control Unit 15 includes comparators 60-62 coupled to receive inputs COND1-COND3, A1-A3, and B1-B3. Slavenburg states,

The A-select and B-select fields 46 and 47 of the condition portion of the conditional branch operation serve to locate and gate the A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, and B3 values **from** the register file 10 of FIG. 1 **into** the appropriate ones of comparator units 60-62.

Slavenburg, col. 9, lines 10-15 (emphasis added). However, nowhere does Slavenburg suggest that Branch Control Unit 15 is linked in bi-directional communication with Register File 10.

Consequently, Slavenburg fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2131. Independent claims 8 and 15 now include a similar novel element as independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §102 rejections of claims 1, 8, and 15 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slavenburg in view of Examiner's Official Notice. Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slavenburg in view of Hao et al. (US 6,028,844).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, **all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art**. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Hao, which is directed towards an ATM Receiver, also fails to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest a control engine linked in bi-directional communication with data memory. Consequently, the combination of Slavenburg and Hao fails to teach or suggest all elements of claims 7, 13, and 14, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2143.03, which add further limitations to their respective independent claims.

Dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-20 are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections for claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

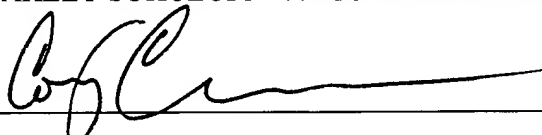
It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date:

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